

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend claim 19 as shown below. A copy of the claims, including their current status, is provided below.

1-5 (withdrawn)

6. **(Previously amended)** A method that allows a probe and target to hybridize at a temperature lower than their standard hybridization temperature, comprising:
- (a) heating the probe and target in the presence of a chemical component of the formula:
$$R(NH_2)C=O$$

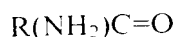
where R is an amino or a methyl group; and
 - (b) allowing the probe and target to hybridize,
- wherein said probe is an oligonucleotide probe attached to the surface of a glass substrate.

7. **(Previously amended)** A method as recited in claim 6, wherein said probe and target are heated to a temperature that is lower than their standard hybridization temperature.
8. **(Previously amended)** A method as recited in claim 6, further comprising adding said chemical compound to a solution prior to heating step (a).

9-12. (withdrawn)

13-14. (cancelled)

15. **(Previously amended)** A method that allows a probe on a micro array surface to hybridize to a target at a temperature lower than their standard hybridization temperature, comprising:
- (a) heating the probe and target in the presence of a chemical component of the formula:



where R is an amino or a methyl group; and

(b) allowing the probe and target to hybridize,

wherein said probe is an oligonucleotide probe attached to the surface of a glass substrate.

16. **(Previously amended)** A method as recited in claim 15, wherein said probe and target are heated to a temperature that is lower than their standard hybridization temperature.

17. **(Previously amended)** A method as recited in claim 15, further comprising adding said chemical compound to a solution prior to heating step (a).

18. **(Previously added)** A method as recited in claim 6, wherein said chemical component is urea.

19. **(Currently amended)** A method as recited in claim 6, wherein said chemical component is that allows a probe and target to hybridize at a temperature lower than their standard hybridization temperature, comprising:

(a) heating the probe and target in the presence of acetamide ~~a chemical~~
component of the formula:



~~where R is an amino or a methyl group; and~~

(b) allowing the probe and target to hybridize,

wherein said probe is an oligonucleotide probe attached to the surface of a glass substrate.